



**STATEMENT SUPPORTING  
COMMITTEE BILL 251: *AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN  
ENTERPRISE ZONES***

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

The MetroHartford Alliance is Hartford's Chamber of Commerce and the region's economic development leader. The membership of the MetroHartford Alliance is representative of businesses of all sizes, health care providers, and institutions of higher education, as well as 34 municipalities. The Alliance's mission is to ensure that the Hartford Region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, talent and capital so that it thrives as one of the country's premier places for all people to live, work, play, and raise a family.

The Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development currently has the ability to offer grants to encourage the development or rehabilitation of rental or owner-occupied housing in enterprise zones. Senate Bill 251 expands that program to specifically enable the Commissioner to offer these grants for the purpose of creating affordable housing alternatives for low and moderate income individuals in designated zones. The ability to build housing options in enterprise zones not only promotes the sustainability and sense of community that is directly attributed to owner-occupied housing, it also bolsters the vitality of the neighborhoods by connecting residents directly with local businesses. This, in turn, would allow more residents to become customers for local merchants who have been impacted directly by the current economic crisis.

Between 2000 and 2006, Connecticut was 46<sup>th</sup> among states in construction of housing units per capita, ultimately ranking 49<sup>th</sup> in 2006. This lack of supply drives up home